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~~CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP~~
~~INTELLIGENCE REPORT~~

COUNTRY Syria/Lebanon

DATE: 25X1X6

SUBJECT Attitude and Plans of the Druzes

INFO.

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25X1A6a

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ORIGIN

SUPPLEMENT

25X1X6

Causes of Druze Discontent

- 25X1X6 1. Fast and present Syrian governments under President Quwwatli have failed to meet Druze demands for large appropriations for roads, schools, water, electric power, and for at least one cabinet post. Amir 'Adil Arslan, the present Minister of Education, is Lebanese, a Druze only in name, being officially a Sunni Moslem, and he in no sense represents the interests of the Jebel.

Present Resentment

- 25X1X6 2. In the cabinet crisis which resulted in the formation of the present government under Jamil Mardam Bey, President Qunwattli and his advisers once more ignored Druze demands, and failed to meet violent Druze objections to the legislative decrees which brought about the fall of the Jabri government. These objections were formulated by Sultan Pasha Atrash, Druze leader of the Syrian revolt of 1925-1926, and deadly personal enemy of President Qunwattli.

Grass Valley

- 25X1X6 [REDACTED] All the Druses are united behind Sultan Pasha, regardless of British and Trans-Jordanian subsidies, or those of the Syrian government.

25X1Y6 **Sultan Pasha's Plan of Action**

Sultan Pasha has declared to the Majlis of the Atrash family that, should Druze demands not be effectively met by the new government within the next few weeks, he will order all Druzes to withdraw from the service of the Syrian Government, civil service, army or security forces. Those stationed outside the Jebel will be ordered to return there. The Druzes, thus cut off from Syria, would make themselves and place their allegiance where they saw fit. In source's opinion, Sultan Pasha's orders would be obeyed, and the Druzes are known to be well armed.

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ADSO	X	A DEP.	X	FST	SPDS	VTO			
DADSO		FBK		FBV	SPDS	B DEP.			
EYEC.		FBL		FRY	SPDT	CFCB			
CONTROL		FEM		FBZ	SCO	CTRB			
PLANS	X	FEB		SPDA	TRF				

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Gendarmerie Forces

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5. The Syrian Gendarmerie has at present 5 officers and 200 men in the Jebel Druze, of whom 150 are mounted. They have no motorized equipment and are armed with British rifles and sub-machine guns, on the average of one automatic weapon to each 20 men. All but a few of the gendarmerie are Druzes. They are commanded by the Amir Zayd Atrash, brother of Sultan Pasha Atrash and brother-in-law of Amir Hasan Atrash, Governor (Muhafiz) of the Jebel. Non-Druze gendarmerie officers from other parts of Syria refuse to serve in the Jebel. During the past summer, gendarmerie headquarters for the first time introduced six or seven non-Druze N.C.O.'s: they are isolated and ineffective.

Army Forces

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6. The Syrian Army has between 200 and 300 cavalry in the Jebel. All are Druzes, the remnant of the former French-organized Druze Legion.

Druze Forces

25X1X6

7. The Druzes keep hidden all the stores of arms and ammunition seized by them from the French in May 1945. These consist of rifles, revolvers, sub-machine guns, machine guns, mortars and grenades, with ample ammunition for all, and are estimated by source to provide arms for 3500-4000 men.

25X1X6 [REDACTED] Comment: Syrian Government forces stationed in the Jebel Druze are totally inadequate, and could take no effective action in the event of a Druze uprising.

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8. It has been reported, as of 19 November 1946, that Sultan Pasha Atrash was in touch with Druze leaders in Lebanon, in order to find out if the Lebanese Druzes would support him in case of a showdown with the Syrian Government. He is said to have received a favorable reply, and it is understood that 200 Druze young men will go to Jebel Druze to be ready to attack Damascus if the signal is given.

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